

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-19, 32 and 36-43 are pending, Claims 20-28, 30, 31, and 33-35 having been canceled (and previously been withdrawn from consideration) and Claim 29 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment. Furthermore, Claims 36 and 37 have been amended as requested, consistent with the versions of these claims filed in the June 30, 2003 amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 36 and 37 were objected to, as failing to have a “marked-up” copy of these claims filed in the amendment of June 30, 2003; Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 29 was rejected as being anticipated by Tsugami (U.S. Patent No. 5,177,757); and Claims 1-19, 32 and 36-43 were indicated as being allowed.

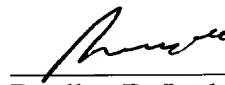
Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In response appropriately marked-up versions of Claims 36 and 37 are filed herewith, as requested in paragraph 1 of the outstanding Office Action.

Consequently, in view of the cancellation of rejected Claim 29, and Claims 20-28, 30, 31 and 33-35 (which were previously withdrawn from consideration) and the indication that each of the other Claims 1-19, 32, 36-43 are allowed, it is believed the present application is in condition for formal allowance. An action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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